

In preparation for today's hearing, I reviewed the notes from the Montana Constitutional Convention relative to the governance structure of public education and came upon the following quote from Delegate Harbaugh, Chairman of the Education and Public Lands Committee, referring specifically to the Board of Public Education, "We feel that the elected officials should be separated from the board decisionmaking but should retain membership on the board for informational and coordinating purposes. We looked at the present situation and we found that ... the duties of the Board and Superintendent are proscribed by law, and so we left it the same. It has worked quite well in the past, so this is why we left it as it is."

For these reasons, the Board of Public Education respectfully requests a No vote on SB 275.